

Kuwait may turn to Moscow if Congress opposes flag deal

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait is likely to seek more help from Moscow to protect its shipping against Iranian attacks if the American Congress opposes a deal to put half its tankers fleet under the U.S. flag, diplomatic and political sources say.

Plans to reflag 11 Kuwaiti tankers to give them U.S. naval protection in the Gulf have sparked fears in Washington that the United States could become embroiled in the Iran-Iraq war.

Iraq, retaliating for Iraqi strikes against its vessels and oil installations, has stepped up attacks against shipping associated with Kuwait because of its support for Baghdad.

Kuwait, lying only 80 kilometres from the warfront and with more crude oil per square mile than another country, has chartered three Soviet oil tankers and agreed to lease more if the reflagging deal gets derailed, political sources said.

They said a proposal to put Kuwaiti tankers under the Soviet flag had also been discussed and apparently remained an option.

"Kuwait, I believe, would be prepared to turn to Moscow," a Western diplomat said. "And don't forget the Stinger snub."

Three years ago, the United States turned down a Kuwaiti request buy hand-held Stinger

anti-aircraft missiles after the Islamic lobby argued they could fall into the hands of guerrillas hostile to Israel.

Washington instead approved an \$85 million arms package for Kuwait with other air defences, but the emir later signed a major weapons deal with Moscow said by local newspapers to be worth over \$300 million.

It included SAM missiles, the Soviet equivalent of the Stingers. Kuwait, a country of 18,000 square kilometres and 1.7 million people, established diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union soon after gaining independence from Britain in 1961.

The New York Times quoted Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov as saying the Soviets were engaged in discussions with Iran, Iraq, India and other countries on ways to assure freedom of shipping in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Vorontsov reportedly told the Times that the Kremlin had proposed such talks with the United States but had not yet re-

ceived an answer.

Mr. Vorontsov also said the Soviet Union was aiming for a summit meeting in Washington in October. He expressed optimism that Soviet-American differences on a treaty to eliminate intermediate and shorter-range nuclear missiles in Europe would soon be overcome.

Moscow had no hints there have been talks between the warring nations of Iran and Iraq on assuring freedom of shipping in the Gulf, Mr. Vorontsov was quoted as saying, but apparently there have been no results.

Mr. Vorontsov said the Soviets would like to hold talks with the United States on stopping the 6½-year-old Gulf war, providing safety of shipping and assuring that the presence of U.S. and Soviet warships in the waterway would not lead to incidents.

Mr. Vorontsov was quoted as saying he felt there were disputed points between the two countries on the issue of an intermediate-range missile accord. But he said he expected a meeting in Washington this summer between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George Shultz, and a summit later in the fall, the newspaper said.

It was the only Gulf Arab state to have formal relations with Moscow until the United Arab Emirates and Oman followed suit within the last two years.

U.S. officials defending the reflagging deal have argued against creating more openings for Moscow to extend its influence in the region.

Opposition in the United

Missiles fired before Stark warned Iraqi jet'

Miami (R) — The USS Stark did not try to warn an Iraqi warplane to prevent it attacking until more than a minute after the jet had launched its two deadly missiles against the frigate and was headed home, the Miami Herald reported.

In an article published in its Sunday editions, the Herald said it obtained the information — which contradicts accounts given shortly after the incident — from U.S. and Iraqi records, including evidence from a U.S. early warning airborne surveillance (AWACS) plane.

The Herald quoted a congressman investigating the tragedy as saying that minutes before the May 17 attack which killed 37 sailors aboard the frigate, the Stark's tactical action officer twice dismissed suggestions from another officer that he warn the jet it was approaching a U.S. ship.

The Herald also reported that Pentagon records showed that six minutes before the Stark issued its two warnings to the plane, two

nearby U.S. ships told the Stark that the Iraqi plane was down on it.

The newspaper quoted Congressman Larry Hopkins, a Kentucky Republican, as saying that a petty officer in the Stark's combat Information Centre monitoring the ship's radar, expressed concern over the jet's intentions when it was within 43 miles.

Mr. Hopkins, a member of the House Armed Services Committee investigating the incident, said Stark Captain Glenn Brindel and the ship's tactical action officer were the senior officers present in the combat centre as the plane approached, according to the Herald.

"At about 43 miles out, the petty officer asked: 'Should we warn this plane?' He was told 'no' by the tactical action officer," Mr. Hopkins told the Herald in an interview.

Mr. Hopkins said that when the jet was 40 miles away, the petty officer again asked whether he should warn the pilot and was

again told no.

Mr. Hopkins said he learned of the exchanges from one of his aides, who recently returned from the Gulf where the aide interviewed the Stark's tactical action officer and other crew members.

A formal navy board of inquiry is investigating the actions of the Stark's captain, tactical action officer and two other officers, the Herald said.

According to U.S. and Iraqi data made available by the Pentagon, the ship's crew did nothing to deter the attack as the plane continued its course toward the Stark for more than 20 miles, the Herald reported.

The Stark issued two warnings 37 seconds apart to the Iraqi jet, according to the Herald.

But the newspaper reported that evidence from a U.S. Air Force AWACS plane over the Gulf suggests that the Iraqi warplane had fired its Exocet missiles and turned home more than a minute earlier.

The Stark's warnings came at

the same time the missiles' internal radar switched on in flight, enabling the ship to detect them, the Herald said.

The first missile struck the ship 28 seconds after the second warning and the second missile struck 25 seconds later, the Herald said.

The Iraqi pilot did not respond to the warnings, according to the newspaper.

Iraqi military officials told Pentagon investigators that their pilot heard nothing despite the fact that he was monitoring the radio warning frequency, the Herald reported.

The Pentagon said the AWACS received both warnings, the newspaper said.

The Herald said the new information contradicts parts of earlier official U.S. accounts of the incident.

On May 19, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said: "The ship had queried the plane as to its intentions ... They were not responded to by the Iraqi plane, and the attack came immediately after that."

Israeli cabinet names new ambassador to Washington

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's cabinet Sunday appointed career diplomat Moshe Arad ambassador in Washington after months of political wrangling over the prestigious post, said a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The United States must

approve the appointment of the 53-year-old diplomat before he can assume the job, the spokesman said after the weekly cabinet meeting.

Arad's last post was ambassador to Mexico. He was an embassy information officer in Washington after the 1973 war.

Afghan prime minister ends visit to Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Afghanistan and Iraq strengthened economic and cultural ties in a four-day visit to Baghdad by Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishmand which ended Sunday.

The two sides signed an agreement on trade, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation and

Mr. Kishmand also had talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan.

The Gulf war and other regional issues figured in his talks.

Kabul and Baghdad have a common adversary in Iran's Islamic revolutionary government

2 Britons expelled from Iran already in U.K.

LONDON (R) — The Foreign Office made no immediate response Saturday to Iran's expulsion of five British diplomats, but said two already were in Britain and that three more dependents have left Iran as a precaution.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the officials dealing with the dispute will spend the weekend consulting over a report by Christopher MacRae, head of the British mission in Tehran.

One of the diplomats ordered to leave within the week is second-ranking envoy Edward Chaplin, whose detention and beating in Tehran on May 28 led to the expulsion of five Iranian diplomatic staff from Britain.

Foreign Office Minister Timothy Renton said Saturday that he understood that Iran would drop charges against Chaplin. The specific charges have not been made public, but British officials said they were false and could not be pressed anyway because Mr. Chaplin has full diplomatic immunity.

Three British diplomats and seven dependents return to London from Iran on Friday.

U.S. faces uphill struggle for U.N. arms embargo in Gulf war

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States has been trying to strengthen U.N. peacemaking efforts in the Iran-Iraq war, but credibility problems and the political and economic interests of other countries have impeded progress, diplomats said.

"Who wants to harm their

iran to comply. It is the arms embargo, contained in the second part of the settlement plan under the heading "enforcement measures," that has divided the five permanent council members, diplomats say.

To restore credibility and strengthen their bargaining position, U.S. officials, including the man in charge of "Operation Staunch," have been trying to distance themselves from the arms-for-hostages affair.

The people who are running the Operation Staunch were not involved in any way in sales to Iran, so our effort was always straightforward here and we have violated by numerous countries.

According to sources at the United Nations and in Washington, all speaking on the condition of not being identified, the five permanent council members have agreed to the first part of a settlement package on the Gulf war. It includes a call for a ceasefire, a return to pre-war borders and negotiations on a long-term solution.

The Security Council has included those points in nearly all seven resolutions it has adopted since the war started in September 1980. Generally, Iraq has accepted them and Iran has not, so the new U.S. proposal for an arms embargo is aimed at forcing

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Self-styled patriots reveal hidden pockets in Iran scandal

WASHINGTON (AP) — This week in the Iran-contra hearings, the cloak of patriotism embraced by some of the key players in the Iran-contra affair was unravelled to reveal hidden pockets.

Though plenty of mystery remains along the money trail, investigators from the House of Representatives and Senate produced mounting evidence that the secret sale of taxpayer-owned arms to Iran produced private profits.

The revelations included:

— Retired Air Force Gen. Richard Secord, who earlier testified to the House-Senate committee that he had forsaken personal gain in the "enterprise," used some of the funds to buy a Porsche sports car and an airplane, according to his Iranian-born partner, Albert Hakim.

— Mr. Hakim, the operation's banker, also described several schemes designed to benefit Lt. Col. Oliver North, the White House aide who recruited himself and Gen. Secord. Though some of these were not implemented, Mr. Hakim said, a \$200,000 Swiss bank account was set up as a "death benefit" for Col. North's family, and the former National Security Council aide stood to gain control of a \$2 million fund should Gen. Secord and Mr. Hakim die.

— Mr. Hakim said \$8.07 million in arms profits remains in accounts in London and Switzerland. He said there was an agreement calling for himself, Gen. Secord and former CIA agent Lawrence E. Walsh more time to prepare a possible criminal case against him.

Mr. Hakim's testimony contradicted that of Gen. Secord on several fronts, virtually ensuring that Gen. Secord will be recalled by the panels. Senator Paul Tsongas said that despite Gen. Secord's claim that he renounced any profit, "the evidence shows that nearly \$350,000 was transferred to Secord's benefit," including money to buy a Porsche, a Piper Seneca airplane and \$2,300 for a trip to a "fat farm" (weight reduction centre)."

Both Gen. Secord and Mr. Hakim refused to waive their claim to the millions remaining in the overseas accounts.

Gen. Secord reiterated Saturday

that he made no money from the Iran-contra hearings, owned by himself and Gen. Secord.

Mr. Hakim a private U.S. citizen who did not have a security clearance, also told of participating in the secret negotiations between American officials and the Iranian government. Among other things, he said the U.S. team told the Iranians that the United States would try to depose the president of Iraq and would fight alongside Iran if the Soviet Union attempted to invade.

Part of the objective of Col. North and the U.S. team, he said, was to gain the release of American hostages "to support the president ... or the Republicans (Ronald Reagan's party)" before the 1984 elections. Meanwhile, the committees postponed until mid-July their plans to compel Col. North to testify under a grant of limited immunity, thereby giving independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh more time to prepare a possible criminal case against him.

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Gen. Secord reiterated Saturday

On Monday, the House-Senate Panels will hear from Bretton Sciarino, the government lawyer who wrote the legal opinions which Col. North has cited as authorising his activities. The trial will call Fawn Hall, North's former secretary, who reportedly has told investigators she helped Col. North destroy documents in his case.

Meanwhile the Jerusalem Post reported Friday that the main Iranian intermediary involved in the ill-fated U.S. arms initiative toward Iran was described as a former Iranian intelligence official under the shah who was later "recruited" by Israel.

In sworn testimony before the joint House-Senate panel Mr. Hakim said that Manucher Ghorbanifar was a "former Savak agent recruited by Israel."

Mr. Hakim's statement — if shown to be true — could potentially represent a major embarrassment for Israel. In the early stages of the affair, Israeli officials repeatedly vouched for the reliability and credibility of Ghorbanifar as someone with good contacts to the revolutionary leadership in Tehran. Ghorbanifar was not presented as someone with ties to Israeli intelligence.

Over the past several months, there have been some suspicions expressed privately by some U.S. investigators that Israel may have "set up" the U.S. to get involved in the entire arms initiative toward Iran in order to advance Israeli interests.

This accusation would clearly be strengthened if Ghorbanifar was indeed working for Israel during this period.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

16:00 Agaba (RJ) Cairo (RJ) 07:00 11:10 14:45 16:20 18:30 20:30 22:30 23:30 01:40

02:00 03:00 04:00 05:00 06:00 07:00 08:00 09:00 09:30 10:00 11:00 12:00 13:00 14:00 15:00 16:00 17:00 18:00 19:00 20:00 21:00 22:00 23:00 24:00 25:00 26:00 27:00 28:00 29:00 30:00 31:00 32:00 33:00 34:00 35:00 36:00 37:00 38:00 39:00 40:00 41:00 42:00 43:00 44:00 45:00 46:00 47:00 48:00 49:00 50:00 51:00 52:00 53:00 54:00 55:00 56:00 57:00 58:00 59:00 60:00 61:00 62:00 63:00 64:00 65:00 66:00 67:00 68:00 69:00 70:00 71:00 72:00 73:00 74:00 75:00 76:00 77:00 78:00 79:00 80:00 81:00 82:00 83:00 84:00 85:00 86:00 87:00 88:00 89:00 90:00 91:00 92:00 93:00 94:00 95:00 96:00 97:00 98:00 99:00 100:00 101:00 102:00 103:00 10

Building contractors look abroad to ease cramped home markets

AMMAN (R) — Building contractors in Jordan, cramped by a rapidly dwindling market at home, have set their sights on construction projects in the wider Arab market abroad.

"We should start facing the situation now," said Ali Abu Al Ragheb, president of the newly-formed Jordan Contractors' Association.

"Until 1982, we all had enough work and didn't bother much about the competition. But it became a problem as recession and unemployment began to bite," he told Reuters.

Construction activity in Jordan dropped by 27.4 per cent last year from a peak of 3.1 million square metres of site development in 1982, according to Central Bank figures.

Arab countries spent some \$250 billion on construction projects in the oil boom years of 1972-83, a level which, says the



Ali Abu Al Ragheb

Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund, dropped drastically with the decline in oil revenues.

The fund forecasts spending on construction projects in the Arab states of about \$35 to 43 billion by the year 1990 — well

below the \$46 billion spent in 1984.

But experts here say this would still offer lucrative opportunities for those companies ready to take up the challenge.

Jordan has more than 400 firms operating in a crowded and depressed construction sector, employing about 50,000 people — some 17 per cent of the country's workforce.

Most of them are one-man firms which mushroomed during the boom years, and Mr. Al Ragheb says their best chance now is to broaden their base in amalgamation.

"The best way would be through mergers, creating institutionalised companies, financially and technically strong, that can also compete abroad, especially in the Arab World."

He says the government is considering incentives to encourage such a trend.

Journalists tour region under U.N. auspices

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of journalists from the United Nations will arrive here today on a four-day visit in the course of a Middle Eastern tour to have a close look at the situation in the region and to investigate facts about the Palestine problem.

The journalists are accompanied by officials from the United Nations public relations and information offices.

The group which will be coming from Egypt will later visit Iraq.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ambassador marks Italy's National Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Italian Ambassador in Amman and Mrs. Amaduzzi held a reception Sunday, June 7, 1987, on the occasion of Italy's National Day. The reception was attended by key public figures, foreign ambassadors, ministers, journalists and a large audience of invited guests.

Registration of pilgrims begins

AMMAN (Petra) — The registration of pilgrims to Mecca in the coming season began in various areas of Jordan Sunday. A spokesman for the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said that the registration is taking place in offices of companies entrusted by the ministry to take care of transporting pilgrims to and from the holy places in Saudi Arabia and putting them up at different sites there. The registration process ends by June 20.

Settlers rampage through West Bank camp

(Continued from page 1)

"Jerusalem is for us, not the Jews," Abdul Halim Ashqar, a university spokesman, told AP.

The army beefed up its patrols around and inside the refugee camp on Sunday. Soldiers were seen walking along the main road outside and through the winding narrow streets of the camp.

Some right-wing leaders were quick to defend the settlers' actions. Legislator Yuval Neeman of the Tchiya Party called on Israel to annex the occupied territories as a way to put an end to Arab protests. "The Arabs should know that we have no intention of leaving the area," Mr. Neeman said on Israel Army Radio.

Also Sunday, Israeli soldiers used teargas and rubber bullets to break up a demonstration by about 1,500 students at the Islamic University in the occupied Gaza Strip, school officials said. The students hurled stones, raised Palestinian flags and shouted

N. Yemen seeks to cooperate in communications

AMMAN (J.T.) — North Yemen has expressed desire to cooperate with Jordan and benefit from its experience and expertise in communications-related fields.

North Yemen's Minister of Communications and Transport Ahmad Al Uni said that Jordan has made good progress in the communications field, and his country was willing to benefit from such experience.

The minister, who was speaking at a meeting with his Jordanian counterpart, Muhammed Al Husseini, said that His Majesty King Hussein's visit to North Yemen had contributed to the development of relations between the two countries, and paved the way for fruitful cooperation.

For his part, Mr. Husseini expressed Jordan's readiness to cooperate with North Yemen in communications and postal affairs.

At the meeting, Ministry of Communications Under Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif and Director of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Mr. Mohammad Shaid Ismail, who were present at the meeting, spoke about the postal services in Jordan and the TCC's programmes and projects provided for within the Ministry of Communication's five-year national plan.

FACT-FINDING: United Nations fact-finding mission arrived here Sunday for a four-day visit to Jordan during which they will hold talks with Jordanian government officials. The mission, headed by Sri Lanka's permanent envoy to the U.N., Mr. Pereira, will meet with a number of Arab citizens from the occupied Arab territories. The mission, grouping representatives from Senegal and Yugoslavia, has been sent by the U.N. General Assembly to the Middle East to investigate charges of Israel's arbitrary measures and practices against Arab citizens in the occupied territories. The U.N. mission was received upon arrival by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Dr. Ahmad Qatani and senior officials (Petra photo).



AMMAN (Petra) — The ministers of transport of Egypt, Jordan and Iraq are meeting in Amman on June 13 to discuss organisational matters for the establishment of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) to operate a land-sea route linking the three countries through the port city of Aqaba.

Transport Ministry Under Secretary Mu'tazz Al Bilbeisi said that the meeting will be devoted to steps to be taken for bringing the project into being and the commencement of actual work. The projected company will undertake maritime transport operations, carrying passengers and goods from Nuweibeh in Sinai to Aqaba in Jordan and vice versa, thus linking the Arab Orient with the Northern African Arab states, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

The company, he said, will have its own vessels, but in case they require more they can hire vessels owned by any of the three countries. Each of the participating countries, he said, will facilitate the work of this company which will have its headquarters in Amman with offices in Egypt and Iraq. The company's lease will be for 50 years, starting from the moment the documents for the establishment of the company are endorsed by the respective governments, Mr. Bilbeisi pointed out.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Association of Owners of Goldsmiths Stores and Jewellery Workshops in Jordan Sunday elected a new nine member board to serve for two years.

The board chairman is Mr. Ghaleb Sakkijha who told the Jordan Times that the election of the board took place at a general association assembly meeting held at the Amman Plaza Hotel following a luncheon hosted in their honour by the hotel management.

A total of 13 candidates ran for the election of whom 10 represented Amman area, two Irbid area and one Zarqa area, Mr. Sakkijha said.

He said that six out of the 10 members running for Amman were elected along with the two candidates from Irbid and one from Zarqa.

He gave the names of the board members as follows: Ghaleb Sakkijha, Thafer Al Sukhun, Akram Mshieh, Anwar Jasmin, Zaki Abu Lughud, Anton Lutfi for Amman, Abdullah Al Huwani and Adel Khouri from Irbid and Fawzi Es'fan from Zarqa.

UNESCO to discuss education

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) regional office will open a six-day meeting in Amman on June 22 to discuss cultural and educational issues of concern to the Arab World and to assess technical education in Arab countries since the early 1970s.

The meeting, to be attended by senior officials at the under-secretary level, will discuss steps taken by regional states in implementing the 1977 UNESCO resolutions issued at Abu Dhabi in the Gulf. The meeting will also review prospects of improving education systems, including technical education, in the Arab World.

Irbid completes JD 1.25m electrification project

IRBID (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali attended a ceremony here marking the end of work on the second stage of a project for improving the electric power network in Irbid.

In a speech on the occasion, Mr. Majali said that the government is keen on providing and improving services for the public.

Addressing the ceremony was the director general of the Irbid District Electricity Company (IDEC), Abdul Ra'uf Al Sheikh, who said that the project is designed to improve electric supply to the eastern and southern districts of the city. This second stage complements the first stage that saw improvements to the network in the northern and eastern districts of Irbid in 1982.

According to an IDEC spokesman, the project aims at ensuring a continuous supply of power to subscribers in all regions, and also feeding districts around

Irbid. According to the spokesman, the project which took 16 months to complete, cost JD 1.25 million. It comprises a main transformer station, ground cables, and distribution station.

The ceremony was attended by Irbid's mayor and governor and other local officials. Before the ceremony, Mr. Majali called at Irbid's governor's house and was briefed on the governor's projects. He also called at the headquarters of the IDEC to discuss its projects.

Road safety to top agenda for int'l transportation symposium

By Najwa Najaar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Increasing the safety of drivers and passengers in Jordan with effective management of traffic and transport was a main concern of the participants of the first international symposium on modern trends in traffic and transport which opened on Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

In an inaugural address, the patron of the four day seminar, Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali said, "traffic safety is one of our major problems." Traffic and transport need a comprehensive plan, Lt.-Gen. Majali said, adding that Jordan has given traffic enforcement courses and is looking for new ways to improve its system.

The subject of traffic accidents

is top on the agenda of the conference, due to the high rate of deaths which result from road accidents in Jordan.

According to Ms. Barbara Good, cultural attache at the American Centre, who also spoke at the opening session: "Sixteen deaths occur in every 10,000 accidents in Jordan, compared to the U.S. which rates under 10 deaths for every 10,000 accidents."

The participants, who include representatives from the U.S., United Kingdom, Sweden, United Nations, the Organisation of Arab Cities and other representatives from the Arab World, will discuss the following symposium topics during the working sessions: challenges to transport system management; trade and freight transport; planning methodologies; traffic and transport port modelling; the evaluation of educational programmes; driver training programmes; urban planning and enforcement; policing and road user behaviour; publicity and mass media campaigns; emergency aids to accident victims; data collection and analysis; social psychology of the road user; road design vs driver behaviour; information technology and vehicle design; enforcement techniques vs driver behaviour; urban transport policies; technological innovations and transport; and energy conservation.

The organisers have also arranged for the showing of films, panel discussions and field visits. They include the American Centre, British Council, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), Public Security Department (PSD), Jordan Roads Society, Civil Defence Department, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Alpha Centre, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) and PRTC London.

On June 11, Dr. Monroe Snyder, chief of the Problem Behaviour and Research Division of the U.S. Department of Transportation, will address the symposium via a live satellite link between the U.S. and Jordan, arranged by the American Centre in Amman. Dr. Snyder will discuss the latest research on road user behaviour being carried out in the U.S. with a panel of Jordanian representative.

Also speaking at the opening session were Mr. Walid Asfour of the RACJ, Mr. David Latta of the British Council and Mr. Louis Reade of USAID. They gave short descriptions of how their organisations have contributed to the development of the Kingdom, and in particular the development of the transportation system.

Air France to begin direct flights to Paris

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — France's national carrier, Air France, has launched its first non-stop weekly flight to Paris, the airline's officials announced Sunday. The direct link, aimed at supplementing two other flights that make one-hour transit stops in Damascus, is designed to make Air France more competitive as well as encourage French tourists to visit Jordan.

Mr. Jean Guigoumet, the airline's general manager for Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, said that the new flight, which departs on Tuesdays, was aimed at "passengers who may not like to stop in Damascus." It is also the only commercial flight from Amman into Europe on Tuesday.

Mr. Guigoumet said the new service was one of a number of recently taken steps towards improving the airline's performance and becoming more competitive in an increasingly shrinking market. The other measures included the introduction of a new first class service (premiere), in addition to the "le club" and economy classes. He said that Air France's competition comes more from national rather than international airlines and that competition was "mostly in prices."

The new link was introduced in accordance with an agreement signed with Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the approval of the civil aviation authority. RJ also has three Paris flights a week.

"The agreement (with RJ) stipulates that each airline established three Amman-Paris flights a week," Mr. Guigoumet said. "Royal Jordanian are our partners."

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Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Getting it together

A three-pronged effort to end the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq is under way. First, there is now an action by the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in the form of consultations within the framework of the Security Council with a view to end the war as soon as possible. Second, the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council have just ended their two-day meetings in Jeddah with a bid to address effectively the general situation in the Gulf and the almost seven-year-old war between Iran and Iraq. Third, the Venice economic summit is scheduled also to begin its deliberations in Venice today with the issue of free navigation in the Gulf and the Iran-Iraq war expected to figure very high on the agenda.

Whereas the United Nations Security Council's current consultations aim to impose sanctions in the form of an arms ban against the belligerent state which rejects peace initiatives to end the war, the Gulf Cooperation Council's initiative is expected to examine the possibility of forming a Gulf delegation to mediate between the warring countries. The Venice economic summit is scheduled, on the other hand, to address the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq in the light of the deteriorating situation in the Gulf, especially the issue of free and unhindered navigation. The United States is expected to solicit firm and unqualified support for its initiative which aims to send an armada of Western battleships into the Gulf to assure free navigation, by force if necessary. The other Western countries are likely to stay away from this U.S. initiative and to push instead for international action.

What is needed now is the convergence of all these three approaches in a unified and synthesised manner, which could draw on the positive elements of the three initiatives. There is no doubt that the United Nations Security Council is in the best position to build on the pillars that should be created by the Gulf Cooperation Council's meetings and the Venice economic summit. The Security Council has not only the mandate and jurisdiction to deal effectively with the threat to peace in the Gulf, but also the composition and legitimacy to deal decisively with the Iran-Iraq war.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Ball in the European court

THE Venice summit of the seven major industrialised nations opens tomorrow. Many observers believe that the participating countries will turn their attention to politics as the most important item on the agenda. In that case the Middle East and the Gulf issues will be among the topics to be discussed by the heads of the seven richest nations on earth. The United States wants to benefit from this meeting by urging the European nations to take part in an American-led force for intervention in the Gulf region, a move Washington hopes will further strengthen its influence and impose its hegemony on the countries of the region. Today, the United States has not accepted the idea of an international conference on the Middle East and the Venice summit will reveal one of two facets: either the United States will go along with Europe in accepting the idea of such a conference or will persuade Europe to give up its own ideas about it.

The Europeans will also have to choose whether to get involved in the proposed multinational force for the Gulf or keep aloof, and avoid adventures that would be detrimental to their interests. As we can see, the European nations attending the Venice summit are confronted with a real dilemma, but if the European countries stand fast in the face of Washington's pressures, they could be paving the ground for the long-awaited international conference on the Middle East. The Venice summit should not allow adventurers to have their way lest the world will again find itself facing a dangerous situation.

Al Dustour: Summit faces challenge

ALTHOUGH the Venice meeting starting Monday is primarily devoted to discussing economic issues and trade relations among the Western powers, observers believe that this summit will devote most of its time to major political affairs. It looks as if this summit will be similar to that held in Tokyo last year during which the heads of governments devoted their time to discussing terrorism. Perhaps the most important political issue is the ongoing Gulf conflict and the leaders of the seven nations will no doubt weigh all repercussions and reactions for an intervention in the Gulf region.

As the Venice summit is being held, representatives of major nations are continuing behind-the-scenes contacts at the U.N. Security Council and with the U.N. secretary general to find means for ending the war and imposing sanctions on the party that rejects peace bids. We hope that the Venice summit will come up with a formula, supporting efforts being made at the United Nations. If the world community succeeds in stopping the war the United States will not have to involve itself or its Western allies for that matter in an adventure in the Gulf and the interests of all nations will be safeguarded and peace will be restored.

Sawt Al Shaab: Contradictory move

JORDAN has been warning against moves by Arabs which would help Israel impose its domination on Arab land and perpetuate its occupation of their territory in Jerusalem and the rest of the Palestinian land. Such warnings were aimed at foiling attempts like those made by Hanna Siniora which tend to give support for Israel's plans in the occupied West Bank. Siniora has called on Israel to include Arab citizens in managing Jerusalem municipality. Since Jerusalem is an occupied territory ruled by force by an imposed mayor, Teddy Kolech, then Siniora's proposal can be considered as conflicting with the resolutions of the United Nations which call on nations to refrain from giving recognition to Israel's annexation.

Siniora's proposal means that he and those who he speaks for are now supporting Israel's ideas about a settlement and tacitly means condoning Israel's measures in the Holy City, including its Judaisation. Since Jerusalem is holy for the Arabs and Muslims no-one has the right to suggest any solution except by calling for its restoration to Arab and Islamic rule.

The chameleon in Israeli politics

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

THERE is no doubt in my mind that the Israeli Likud bloc's rejection of the principle of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations is just another ploy to preserve the status quo in the occupied territories and to avoid serious negotiations with the Arab parties which could lead to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The insistence by the Likud on direct negotiations with the Arab parties and on the basis of the Camp David accords format must be viewed against the backdrop of the various Arab summit resolutions which had ruled out negotiations with Israel on the basis of the Camp David accords and outside the umbrella of the United Nations.

The Likud leadership knows only too well that the Arab parties are firmly and permanently locked in the position of principle dictated by the Arab summits and the Likud's insistence on the impossible is tantamount to assuming a bargaining position which aims for the frustration of all peaceful efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. Whether negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties are conducted directly or indirectly is not really the issue here because under the concept of a peace conference under United Nations auspices, direct negotiations between the parties are envisaged and accepted. The real issue is whether U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 will be rendered operational in any such negotiations. The way Likud talks about the foundation of the Camp David accords for future negotiations with the remaining Arab parties gives the distinct impression that Israel views the accords as not envisaging the implementation of Resolutions 242

and 338. Upon careful reading of the accords, one readily discovers that not only the Camp David treaty referred to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 but also incorporated it as well as a cardinal basis for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It goes without saying that Resolution 242 incorporated the principle of the unlawful acquisition of territory by force, a guideline which is anathema to Likud thinking. By assuming the posture of wanting only the Camp David accords format as basic for negotiations with the Arab parties on the premise that by so doing Israel would escape the dictates and propositions of Resolution 242, Likud in effect is engaged in questionable diversionary tactics with a view to consolidate their militaristic hold over the occupied territories. I suspect that if the parties were to accept the format suggested to them by Likud, the hawkish Israeli party would hasten to create obstacles of substance to frustrate negotiations. There is no escape from the conclusion that Likud has not reconciled itself with the terms of Resolutions 242 and 338 and its constituency does not intend to make territorial compromises with the Arabs.

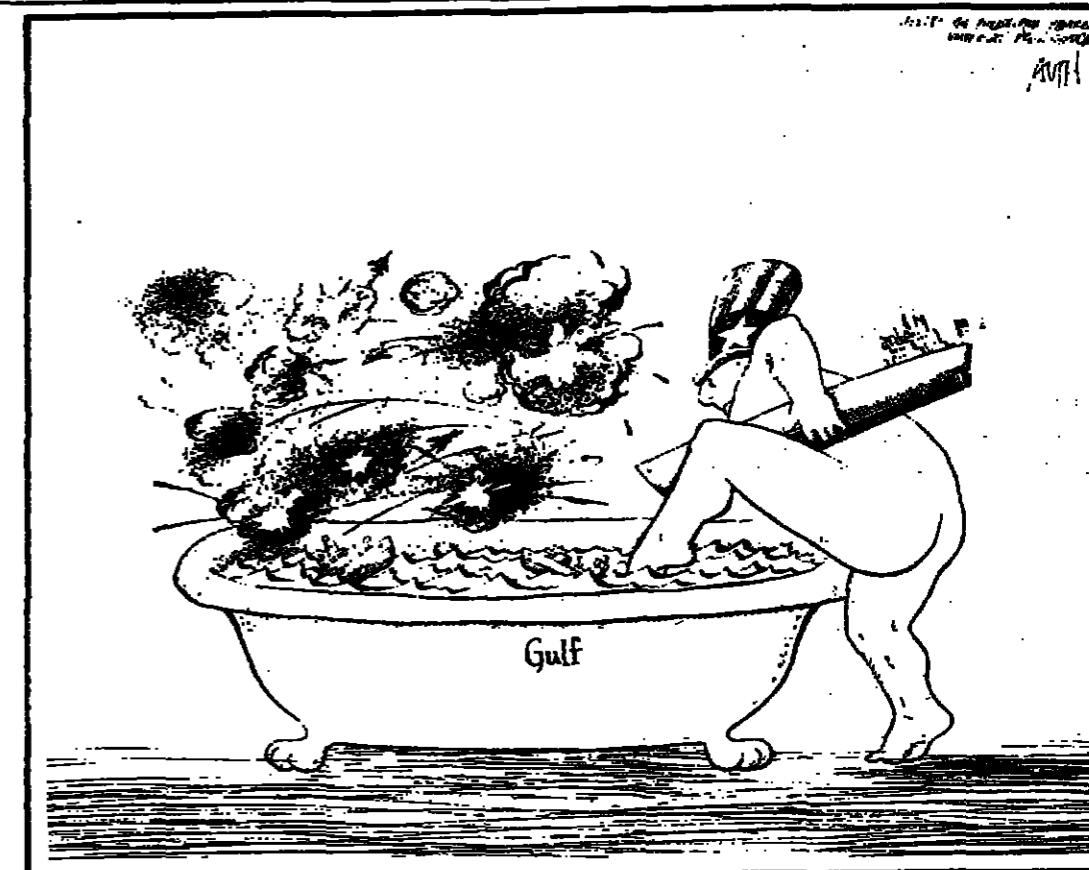
Whether the Labour Party in Israel is any different in substance from the Likud Party is a big question. But if the record of Labour is anything to go by in any attempt to answer this big question, then the answer is rendered simpler.

When Labour enjoyed a stronger mandate from the Israeli electorate and was literally alone in the helm, it was never truly forthcoming on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. Labour had untold number of years to "strike a deal" with the Arabs on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 but chose instead to

set the circumstances and events in motion which led ultimately to the 1973 war. Why should we now believe that the Labour of the fifties, sixties and early seventies is any different from the Labour of today? The true colour of the Labour Party had shown most brilliantly during the acrimonious debate which ensued between it and Likud over the projected international peace conference and in which the Labour leadership attempted to out-bid Likud as more of a hardliner in any negotiations with the Arab parties than Likud could ever be. Let us forget, it was the Labour leadership which cited the Camp David accords as evidence that Likud was "softy" in the negotiations with Egypt and that they had sold out the "national interests" of Israel very cheaply by agreeing to total withdrawal from the Sinai.

As the political epoch of the principal quartet in Israeli politics come to a close in a sunset of acrimony, the indications point in the direction of Ariel Sharon as the heir apparent to the Likud leadership and as the principal beneficiary of the current standoff between the present Israeli leaderships. Should Sharon in fact ascend to power by "hook or by crook", then all of us Arabs and Israelis would become in the midst of a new ball game whose dimensions only God knows.

As we in the Arab World mark the 20th anniversary of the 1967 war, we must assume the posture of a good driver. Look forward most of the time but look behind sometimes. Hopefully with the benefit of hindsight and a futuristic vision, visibility becomes enhanced and our course for the future could assume more effective dimensions.



U.S. warships keeping close watch on Iranian air activity in Gulf

By Aly Mahmoud
The Associated Press

BAHRAIN — American warships in the Gulf are closely monitoring Iranian air activity as tension mounts in the strategic waterway over superpower intervention to protect merchant ships from attack by Iranian warplanes and gunboats.

"God help any plane, any pilot, regardless of what nation he belongs to, and it could be a very friendly nation, if they come in a pattern that may show hostile intent," said Zakhem, the U.S. ambassador to Bahrain, told in an interview.

Iranian leaders have warned the United States and the Soviet Union that Tehran will not be deterred from attacking vessels under the flags of the superpowers or escorted by their warships.

The U.S. navy task force in the Gulf was ordered on a "heightened state of alert" after an Iraqi Mirage F-1 attacked the USS Stark May 17, killing 37 American sailors.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said the pilot mistook the U.S. frigate for an Iranian warship.

Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington

ton Friday that so far the Iranians had been "more cautious than usual" since the Stark was hit.

But he warned amid Iranian saber rattling that "this situation could change quickly."

To underline the close surveillance of Iranian activity, Zakhem said that an Iranian fighter-pilot was warned by a U.S. warship in the Gulf to keep clear almost as soon as he took off from a base near Bandar Abbas in southeast Iran.

"My God, I just took off," the astonished pilot radioed back. "I'm not heading in your direction."

Zakhem said the crew of the unidentified warship, one of six U.S. vessels patrolling the Gulf, was "so alert that the moment that plane took off we were on the radio telling the pilot 'watch where you're going. You're headed in the direction of an American ship.'

In the aftermath of the Stark attack, with the United States expected to send three more warships to the Gulf and the Soviets reportedly deploying three minesweepers to reinforce their two warships in the waterway, Zakhem stressed: "We're not going to let that mistake happen again."

"We're not going to send any more American bodies home in

caskets."

Zakhem stressed that the Americans' long-term aim is not just upholding the principle of freedom of navigation in the Gulf, but ending the Iran-Iraq war.

"We wish neither Iraq nor Iran any ill," he said. "But Iran is a belligerent power that refuses to come to the negotiating table. Iran does not want to end the war except on its own terms. We want

the war ended on a no-victor, no-victorious basis."

The focal point of the rising tensions in the Gulf centre on Kuwait, the country closest to the war zone and the most vulnerable.

Iran accused Kuwait, a major conduit for Iraqi-bound cargoes, of aiding Iraq's war effort and has singled out its ships for attack in the so-called "tanker war."

Iran has leased three tank-

ers to Kuwait to give its oil exports the protection of the Soviet flag.

One of the tankers hit a mine May 16 in what maritime salvage executives said was an attempt by Iran to scare Moscow off. A Soviet freighter was attacked by gunboats in the Gulf a week earlier.

Washington has agreed to register 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. flag. But those plans have run into congressional opposition and fears it could drag the United States into dangerous waters.

Diplomats in Bahrain said the Soviets have agreed to charter Kuwait as many vessels as it needs if the U.S. reflagging deal falls through.

While the superpowers are pressing Iran through the United Nations to accept mediation to end the war, they are both seeking to bolster their influence in the strategic, oil-rich region.

Zakhem, conceding dismay over the lack of support from NATO powers, stressed that the United States would go it alone if necessary to defend free navigation and resist Soviet efforts to extend their influence in the Gulf.

Arab diplomatic sources said Senators John Warner and John Glenn, who visited the Gulf last week, have advised Arab governments in the Gulf against military cooperation with the Soviets.

Zakhem, the secretary-general of the 22-member Arab League, has lauded the United States' "role of peace" in the Gulf, stressing that "our American friends have at last become aware of the grave dangers that weigh on this region."

After the United States began setting bases in Gulf states for its warplanes to provide air cover, he said. "We are going to stay the course."

Hawke — tough union boss who became popular Australian leader

SYDNEY (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke will become the first Labour Party leader to lead Australia for three terms of office if he wins the snap election called for July 11.

The most popular Australian prime minister for 50 years, Hawke has slightly toned down his tough and outspoken image since moving into parliament in 1980 after 10 years in the most powerful position in Australia's union movement.

To the outside world the 57-year-old, who gave up drinking when he became prime minister in March 1983, projects the role of a responsible statesman.

His main goal of coaxing Australia back to economic health is allied to a no-nonsense approach to foreign affairs such as his recent closure of the Libyan people's bureau in Canberra demonstrating.

Among his own people Hawke's charm, rugged good looks and "man-of-the-people" love of sport guarantee his position as the country's political pinup.

An opinion poll has put Hawke's popularity rating at a record high of 57 per cent compared with 31 per cent for opposition leader John Howard.

In his first term of office Hawke presided over the fastest economic growth in Australia for a decade, cutting inflation, raising business profits and employment.

His government also established a record for pragmatic and moderate economic management which saw the floating of the Australian dollar and a proposed entry of foreign banks.

President of the Australian Council of Trades Unions (ACTU) from 1970, Hawke won a seat in parliament at his second attempt in 1980 and set about changing his image as a tough, abrasive, outspoken and hard-drinking union leader.

When Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser suddenly called a general election in February, 1983, Hawke took over the Labour Party leadership from Bill Hayden and led the party to victory in the succeeding March poll, promising national reconciliation and government for all.

His first term was aided by an element of luck such as drought-breaking rains in 1983 which prompted an agriculture-led economic recovery.

Riding the back of an economic boom, Hawke called a snap election for December 1984 after just

20 months in office, convinced that he had fulfilled his promises.

He was returned, but with a reduced majority instead of the landslide win he expected.

Hawke blamed the country's complex voting system which he said led to many Labour supporters' votes being spoilt. But some commentators accused him of arrogance during a campaign built around himself.

An emotional man, Hawke broke down and wept at a televised press conference during a discussion on the issue of drug abuse. His wife later revealed that his daughter and son-in-law had been heroin addicts.

A vibrant orator with an evangelistic style, Hawke in his union days became adept at cajoling disagreeing bosses and workers round the conference table.

In parliament he helped set up an inflation-cutting wages and

prices accord he believed vital to maintaining industrial peace and

boost the economy.

The accord, allowing for central wage fixing, gradually came

under strain with major business

organisations blaming it for spiralling labour costs and accusing

him of giving in too much to the

unions to save it.

This criticism contrasted sharp-

ly with the earlier praise he had earned from both the finance and business communities for his consensus approach to economic management and his rapid loosening of a highly-regulated financial system.

Australia's dependence on commodity exports and its helplessness to the slump in prices and oversupply also helped cause Hawke's latter economic problems.

Robert James Lee Hawke was born on December 9, 1929 in the south Australian village of Bordertown, where his father was a

congregational church minister. When he was nine the family moved to Perth. An outstanding student, Hawke won a scholarship to the University of Western Australia where he gained a law degree with honours in 1950 and, after an extra year, a degree in economics.</



Labour supporters at a rally

Polls come under spotlight in British election campaign

By Chris Peterson
Reuters

LONDON — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is going to sweep back to power with a 100-seat majority — or have no majority at all, depending on

which opinion poll you believe. Public opinion polls have taken control of a British election campaign as never before, with stock markets reacting to the merest hint of a new survey and political leaders changing tactics in response to poor showings.

Polls taken within hours of each other have either shown Thatcher poised to come back into power with a comfortable majority in the 650-seat parliament, or without one, raising the prospect of a minority government or the first coalition for over 40 years.

But as campaigning reaches fever-pitch ahead of the June 11 general election, politicians and the public alike are beginning to question the value of opinion polls.

Some 200 polls will have been conducted on behalf of newspapers, radio and television by the time the country's 43.6 million voters get the chance to make their preferences known in the voting booths.

George Foulkes, a front bench spokesman of the opposition Labour Party and a consistent opponent of public opinion polls, thinks enough is enough.

"The growth of polls is causing increasing concern.

"They are so powerful and influential that people are beginning to use them not just to

determine the outcome of the general election but also for illicit material gain," he said.

According to pollsters a sinister trend has emerged where the polls are deliberately used, or misused, to influence financial markets.

According to market analysts, deliberate rumours that a poll for the *Guardian* newspaper this week showed Thatcher's hitherto commanding lead slashed to two percentage points wiped \$6 billion (\$10 billion) off stock market share values. When the poll finally came out, the Tories' lead was 10 points.

Some senior politicians believe the rumours were deliberately started by dealers anxious to see shares being sold, allowing them to reap quick profits and then purchase them back at a cheaper price later.

Robert Worcester, chairman of the Market Opinion Research International (MORI) survey organisation, said: "The market is being manipulated unethically.

"It's the unacceptable face of capitalism."

One rather confused group of residents are the foreign dealers who now work in London's financial district following the deregulation of the markets last October.

John Sheppard, an analyst with Warburg Securities, said public opinion poll fever was peculiar to British markets during an election.

He said London was the only financial centre in the world which felt itself vulnerable to the election of what it sees as an inflationary, anti-business group such as Labour.

The Labour Party is committed to introducing tougher regulations in the city, as well as new safeguards on mergers, takeovers and monopolies. Some finance experts also fear its plan for a major government spending programme to create jobs would fuel inflation, weakening the economy.

Sheppard said foreign dealers, most experiencing their first British election, "find it rather confusing."

Both the state-funded British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Independent Television News (ITN) say they will be able to forecast the election result within minutes of the polls closing on Thursday night.

But long before the 10 p.m. close, vast fortunes will have been won and lost as a result of the canvassed views of only a few thousand people.

A public opinion poll consists of interviewing — either face-to-face or by telephone — a group of people chosen at random.

The poll organisations maintain results over the years have proved to be accurate to between two and four per cent, depending on the type of poll.

In electoral terms, there are two types of poll — either a random nationwide sample or one taken in a key marginal area. There is also a so-called "rolling poll" where a group of 1,000 voters is polled on a daily basis, with a quarter of them being changed each time.

As far as any member of the public who wants an idea of the nation's intentions is concerned, one 24-hour period this week presented two radical options from two respected organisations.

The Harris poll for TV-AM gave Prime Minister Thatcher a commanding 10-point lead, while the previous evening BBC's newsnight produced a result that pointed for the first time to a hung parliament, with no one party enjoying an overall majority.

Peter Riddell, the political editor of the *Financial Times*, said the various polls had given widely conflicting signals.

There are clear defects in the coverage of marginal surveys. By definition they cannot all be right. But they may not all be wrong. So for the overall picture, the national surveys are still the best guide."

Japan promises huge hike in Third World aid to 'recycle' surplus

By K.P. Hong
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan, under foreign pressure to use its huge trade surplus to help others, has promised a major increase in its Third World aid, including new \$30-billion loan programme.

Japan says it will "recycle" some of its surplus by offering \$30 billion in public and private funds in soft loans to developing countries over the next three years. Much of this money will go to Latin America and Asia.

The special programme is in addition to the government's regular programme of official development assistance, which totalled \$5.634 billion in the fiscal year ending March 31. The government decided last month to raise that to \$7.6 billion by 1990, two years earlier than originally promised. Much of this assistance will go to Africa.

The recycling programme and the increase in regular assistance are designed to answer criticism that Japan, in building its powerful export-oriented economy, has taken more from the world than it has given back. Japan racked up a staggering \$101.4-billion surplus in fiscal 1986.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has praised Japan for increasing its aid to Third World countries, "though not as much as I'd like."

The new "recycling loans" are to be low-interest, untied loans, funded by the massive inflow into Japanese banks and the capital market because of the surplus.

Untied loans do not require borrowers to spend the funds on goods and services in the lender's country, a common practice by developed nations.

Hideaki Domichi, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's aid policy division, said in an interview that most of the new "recycling loans" would probably go to developing countries in Latin America. He said least-developed countries in Africa were likely to receive more official direct assistance grants.

"We believe that the recycling funds will help solve problems of

structural adjustment and debt problems in developing nations, mainly in Latin America and Asia," he said.

"Assistance flow into the Latin American and Asian countries is declining every year, and developing countries in these regions now face such problems as declining commodity prices, subsequent lower export earnings and debt accumulation," he said. The flow of the world's total resources into developing countries has declined from \$132 billion in 1981 to \$78 billion in 1985, Domichi said.

Most Japanese development aid traditionally has gone to Asia, and Japan has not imposed political conditions in return for assistance. China has been one of the largest recipients, Domichi said.

He said details on the programmes were still being formulated, and the nature and size of the aid packages would be determined through negotiations with recipients and international organisations.

In a meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington early in May, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone pledged \$20 billion more for recycling loans in fiscal 1987.

That was in addition to the original plan late last year to make available \$10 billion for the three-year programme. The government said it would provide the \$30 billion to developing countries through the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank and the International Development Association.

Washington often has urged Japan to spend more on aid, saying it enjoys low unemployment and a huge trade surplus while also spending less on its military than the United States and other industrialised countries.

With its anti-war constitution and its mutual defence treaty with the United States as a shield, Japan spends about one per cent of its gross national product for

its military, compared with the United States' seven per cent.

The powerful federation of economic organisations (Keidanren), which groups the nation's 1,000 top business leaders, criticised Japan's past contribution to developing countries in a report in May.

The Keidanren said aid programmes place too much emphasis on "tied" loans, requiring that part of the money be spent in Japan. It also complained that grants comprised just 47.5 per cent of Japan's total aid in 1984, the last year for which figures are available. In contrast, the United States gave 80.8 per cent of its official overseas assistance as grants and less than 20 per cent as loans, the Keidanren said.

It urged the government to swiftly reduce the rate of interest on yen loans that Japan already has extended to developing countries.

Borrowers have complained that the seemingly low annual three per cent interest rate has become a heavy burden because of the yen's 20-month heavy appreciation against the other currencies.

The report suggested that Japan's aid fund be disbursed in foreign currency denominations rather than in yen. It also said Japan should extend 30-year interest-free "ultra-soil loans."

Japan's official development assistance as a percentage of gross national product stood at 0.34 in 1984, 11th among 18 donor countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. For 1985, Japan's aid as a share of GNP fell to 0.29 per cent, dropping it to 15th.

The Foreign Ministry says Japan's official development assistance in the fiscal year ending March 31 rose 48.4 per cent in dollar terms over the previous year, to a record \$5.634 billion.

In yen terms, however, the amount was up just 4.8 per cent from fiscal 1985 to 949.5 billion yen, and still was below the 1.0258 trillion yen provided in fiscal 1984.

Randa Habib's
Corner

Root out the grass before it 'catches' fire

FIREMEN are very busy these days extinguishing fires that break out almost daily in waste grounds. With the heat, it only takes someone to throw a lighted cigarette for dry grass to burn down. But fires are breaking out not only by accident. In many cases they have been deliberate acts by neighbours who wanted to get rid of grass because it was disturbing them and because they were worried of snakes which could hide there, posing a threat to their children who often use these lots as play grounds.

But surely this is not the way. The municipality should send its people to take care of grounds covered by thorns and grass and not wait for people to burn them, endangering lives.

Just imagine one of those "daily fires" reaching a petrol station. It would be a catastrophe. And as most of our gas stations are located in residential areas, between houses, so many lives can be in danger. I am particularly worried about one gas station situated between two empty lots, and close to many houses. Those lots are not burned yet, and I hope no-one would be foolish enough to start a fire there.

Why doesn't the municipality send some special teams to clean up all this stuff and charge the owners of the land for the cost of the cleaning up.

On flat lands, it will only take few minutes for a tractor to clean the ground. Other ways can be used on slopes.

One thing is sure: We can't just sit and watch the city burn.

In appreciation of Nabih Y. Bulos



Nabih Y. Bulos (1921-1987)
reviewing an arbitration case, a cross-word puzzle, a game of solitaire, a light supper, some television and a book. Perhaps a detective story, most probably a technical treatise. He died at home having always been at home with life.

There were colours in the eyes that defeated description: circles of grey and green and tenderness — a precious stone in the making.

He had a funny walk, a lifting engine sort of: the music lover and the engineer, always springing to the slightest request. Always the volunteer, he would peel your orange with a fork and knife and with love.

His weaknesses were countable: little girls, Peach Melba and calculators. And there was the pipe, ever lit, puffing away life's trivia. A peace pipe, a coming to terms with the world.

He will be missed. For his alertness of mind and sense of responsibility. For his generosity of heart and untiring spirit.

He will be missed. For his warmth and jollity. For his selflessness and optimism. For his softness and mannerism. A spark of absolute justice burn in him: Treating all — the young and the old, the fortunate and the ordinary — with the same sort of manners and the same genuineness of respect.

But above all, he will be missed for his abundance of love.

He died as he lived: troubling none, bearing the pain silently.

He and his life's companion would have celebrated their fiftieth anniversary this coming August. His words to her then were Dryden's:

Grow old, grow old with me,
The best is yet to be.

N.B.

Plan for Eiffel Tower 'light ring' under attack

PARIS (AP) — A plan to celebrate the Eiffel Tower's 100th anniversary by launching a "light ring" into space is drawing angry complaints from astronomers around the world who say the giant reflecting satellite could wreck their sensitive telescopes.

But the project's backers say launching what would be the biggest satellite in the heavens is a fitting way to commemorate the erection of what was once the world's tallest structure.

"It's a pointless piece of egotism," said Paul Murdin, the head of the astronomy division of the Royal Greenwich Observatory in Britain. "What we're talking about is space junk."

The sky is not the property of astronomers, "retorted Philippe Gillieron, a spokesman for the Societe Nouvelle D'exploitation de la Tour Eiffel, the company backing the plan, which was the result of an international competition.

Gillieron compared the astronomer's complaints with the outcry over the Eiffel Tower's construction nearly a century ago.

Part of the controversy then was that the tower was designed by an engineer, Gustav Eiffel, and not an architect.

The "space necklace" he said, would be a symbol of the technical aspirations of the 21st century, just as the tower symbolised those of the 20th century.

The expected launch date is now 1990, a year later than the anniversary and planned celebrations. The satellite would be carried into space by the Ariane rocket, the scheduling of which has been disrupted by launch failures.

The estimated 300 million francs (\$50 million) needed has yet to be raised. The company is seeking to raise a subscription supported by 21 major European corporations.

The light ring would consist of 100 reflectors linked by plastic tubes, each 240 metres long, orbiting 800 kilometres above the earth. It would reflect sunlight and be visible at night.



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Lendl wins French Open men's title

PARIS (Agencies) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia retained his men's singles title at the French Open tennis championships Sunday, beating Sweden's Mats Wilander 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 in a match that finished in rain and semi-darkness.

Lendl, who was appearing in his fourth successive final, took four hours, 17 minutes to clinch the title for the third time. He won last year and in 1984 but was beaten in 1985 by Wilander.

It was the fifth Grand Slam success for the 27-year-old Czechoslovak, the world's number 1 player, who has also won the U.S. Open twice.

The match was interrupted by rain in the middle of the fourth set with Lendl leading 3-2. When play resumed under grey skies 35 minutes later, Wilander appeared

less troubled by the delay.

He won the first six points, holding serve for 3-3 and moving to 0-30 on Lendl's service.

But the defending champion recovered his concentration, hit three winners and rallied to hold for 4-3.

Both players then held at love and Wilander twice had to serve to save the match, first at 4-5 and then at 5-6. He succeeded both times and took the set into a tiebreaker.

As the rain began to fall again, the centre court crowd huddled



Wilander... the victim



Lendl... the victor

under umbrellas and Lendl seemed in a hurry to get the back in, with two sloppy errors.

But a fantastic stretching backhand pass down the line took Lendl to 5-2 and he moved to 6-2

points in style but let the Swede

and four match points after Wilander hit a service return.

Lendl, appearing in his fourth successive final here, played the more powerful tennis for most of the match.

The Czechoslovak, fired up for victory, raced into a 4-0 lead in the tie-break, serving aggressively and taking the initiative.

Wilander came back to 4-2 and saved one match-point with a smash for 6-3. But, with the crowd chanting their names, Lendl clinched the tie-break at 7-3 to retain the title he won last year against Sweden's Mikael Pernfors.

"This was the hardest of my five Grand Slams," said Lendl, who won his first in a dramatic five-setter against American John McEnroe here in 1984.

Van Berg, Alysheba denied place in history books

ELMONT, New York (R) — Trainer Jack Van Berg and Alysheba were denied a place among horse racing's elite by romping to a 14-length victory ahead of Cryptoclearance with Gulch third. Alysheba, the favourite, was fourth.

Nearly 65,000 fans packed Belmont Park to roar Alysheba into the record books. It was the biggest attendance at the course since Affirmed captured the last Triple Crown in 1978, but this time most left disappointed.

The shock was not that Alysheba lost but that Bet Twice, who appeared totally outclassed in the gallop for the line as Alysheba won the two previous classics, should triumph so emphatically.

It was the largest victory margin since Conquistador Cielo pre-

dicted local trainer Woody Stephens with the first of his five successive wins in 1982, and was the fifth biggest ever.

Alysheba was balked coming

round the final bend and lost ground when jockey Chris McCarron snapped him sideways to avoid a collision with Gone West.

If that hadn't happened, he would have been an easy second," Van Berg said. "But he would never have beaten Bet Twice today — not the way he ran. You like to win but you can't cry if you lose. If one guy won every race there would be no racing."

"Of course I am disappointed at losing the Triple Crown. But I've been busted all my life so a few more years won't hurt. He went to the post perfect but there's been a lot of them knocked off before and a lot will be again."

Ironically, it was the first

appearance in the Belmont Stakes for Perret, Bet Twice' trainer Jimmy Croll and owner Bob Levy.

"Bet Twice fired as I knew he would," said Perret. "He's been super in all three races and today Alysheba was not on top of his game."

"As long as my horse was comfortable I wasn't worried where I was. I put my horse on the best part of the track and was running very relaxed. I kept an eye on Gone West, thinking I would have to move with him."

Bet Twice hit the front just

after halfway and thereafter reduced the race to a procession, powering down the straight to put more and more daylight between him and the chasing pack.

Alysheba is the 11th horse to

miss the Triple Crown after win-

ning the first two classics.



Alysheba ... the gallop to history books thwarted (file photo)

Beginner Natroun wins French Derby for Aga Khan again

PARIS (R) — Natroun, the most inexperienced horse in the field, won the Prix Du Jockey Club (French Derby) Sunday to give the Aga Khan his fourth success in the race in the last nine years.

The colt, racing for only the third time, was brought by veteran Yves Saint-Martin on the wide outside and won by a head from Tremplino, the mount of English champion jockey Pat Eddery.

English challenger Naheez, ridden by Steve Cauthen who won the English Derby on Reference

Point on Wednesday, ran on to be third, two lengths away, with the outsider Mansounien another length away in fourth place.

The result was some compensation for the Aga Khan and his jockey after the disappointing showing of Sadiyyah in the English equivalent on Wednesday.

Sadiyyah had been heavily backed to lift the Epsom Classic but lost many lengths at the start, although he ran on to finish in a respectable eighth position.

The disappointment of Sunday's race was Irish-trained Sea-

New Zealander wins Australian marathon

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — New Zealand's Peter Renner, competing over the distance for only the second time, scored a convincing victory Sunday in the Australian Marathon Championships.

The early lead in the mile-and-a-half test was held by Seattle Dancer's pacemaker Ancient Times but when the 17-strong field turned into the straight, Tremplino looked the likely winner.

However, as Eddery set sail for home, Saint-Martin was making ominous progress.

In a driving finish the Frenchman got up in the final 50 metres to claim his ninth French Derby victory and lift the \$342,556 first

prize.

"I was surprised how easy it

was over the last few kilometres,"

said Renner. "I relaxed and ran my own race."

Gabriel Kamau, a Kenyan resident of the United States was third in 2:16.04.

Suleiman Nyambui of Tanzania, who also lives in the United States, was fourth in 2:18.33 with fellow Tanzanian Agapius Masong, also a resident of the United States, fifth in 2:18.42.

Huge Rey of Switzerland was sixth in 2:19.20 over a difficult hilly course with many corners that made fast times difficult.

Tani Ruckle, a Canadian-born Australian, won the women's division with a time of 2:37.52. She led virtually all the way.

Ruckle collapsed after her victory and was put on an intravenous drip by doctors due to dehydration and exhaustion.

Australian motorcyclist wins Austrian Grand Prix

SALZBURG, Austria (R) — Wayne Gardner of Australia won Sunday's 500 CC Austrian Motorcycle Grand Prix on the fast Salzburgring track after a furious race-long duel with American Randy Mamola.

Gardner seized the lead on his Honda at the end of the first lap. Mamola edged his Yamaha into the lead numerous times but the Australian pulled away in the final two laps to cross the line 2.4 seconds ahead.

American Eddie Lawson, Gardner's greatest rival for the world championship, retired his Yamaha early in the race.

His exit allowed Gardner to stretch his tally in the championship standings to 58 points, 14 ahead of Mamola. Lawson, who was second before Sunday's race, dropped to fourth place, 19 points adrift.

Briton Niall Mackenzie rode one of the best races of his career to take third on a Honda while his compatriot Ron Haslam slipped to fourth after leading the opening lap with one of his customary rocket starts.

PARADISE, Washington (AP) — The bodies of two mountain climbers missing for a week on Mount Rainier have been recovered from a tem where the men had sought refuge from a storm, National Park officials said. The tent, at the 13,000-foot (4,000-metre) level near Liberty Ridge, had been hit by an avalanche, and the men appeared to have died instantly, said Mount Rainier National Park spokesman C.Y. Hentges.

Bodies of missing climbers found in tent

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Phone 610039 (or 6851182 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Baishan

AMMAN — Last week the U.S. dollar moved higher due to short covering from big banks around the world before the Venice meeting of the Group of Seven. The dollar traded in a very wide range of 0.338 - 0.346 fils against the Jordanian dinar. Charts still indicate that the dollar could move five per cent lower but not before the Venice meeting. The expected dollar range for this week is 0.338 - 0.348 fils.

The pound sterling lost ground and moved lower due to heavy selling because of the strong dollar. The pound traded between 0.5450 - 0.5570. The D.M./S.F. moved lower due to the strong dollar. The D.M. traded between 0.1825 - 0.1880 fils and the S.F. between 0.2175 - 0.2225 fils.

Charts indicate that gold is still in a consolidation period around the levels of \$440 - \$460 an ounce for the time being before moving higher towards \$475 an ounce.

Silver could push to a high of \$8.60 an ounce during the same period.

Gold prices in Amman based on the daily bulletin presented by the Jordan Jewellery Store are as follows:

Gold per gramme 21 carats JD 4.150 - JD 4.050

Gold per gramme 18 carats JD 4.000 - JD 3.900

As my home I wasn't home I put my home of the track and relaxed I left the West, thinking to move will be him the iron and the slender ice to a place on the straight road, the day when I'm chasing pack is the 11th home Crown star, it two classes.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Consider your deepest aims and ambitions now. You will be able to procure them with the least amount of conflict from others. Don't give in to negative feelings.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Tap your subconscious and come up with fine ideas for making the future brighter for yourself.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A situation may come up between you and a partner that will need a little time to cool down.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Try to be more understanding of what co-workers expect of you. Don't permit a pessimist to depress you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You need to put more effort and study into some project you have been working on.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) There is some condition at home that puzzles you, so quietly question a family tie to get clarification.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) It's a fine day to go after the data you need in order to improve your routines. Be careful while driving today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have to study carefully any practical matter you want handled today. Set up a good budget.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan just how you can gain your important wishes. Don't get into any heavy expenses now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Know what your personal goals are and how best to gain them. Have a chat with your mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You need to be more steadfast and purposeful if you are to gain personal wishes or business goals now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can begin the day properly by scheduling your activities and time wisely.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be sure to study every phase of a new project if you want to handle it constructively.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be one of those charming young persons who will have every ability to discover whatever is desired. Teach this child, however, to listen to the views of others and to respect them. Make sure you give an education to accommodate this child's capabilities.

Investors welcome Japan's stock futures but foresee troubles ahead

TOKYO (R) — Trading in Japanese stock futures is likely to get off to a roaring start this week but may stumble into snags and even collapse completely later, analysts said.

The Osaka Stock Exchange is preparing for a swarm of buyers chasing futures contracts linked to a basket of the shares of 50 major Japanese companies, called the Osaka Futures 50, when trading starts on June 9.

Pent up demand for a mechanism to hedge against swings in Japanese share prices will make Osaka's venture an initial success, but inherent flaws and the expected introduction of more attractive alternatives will diminish its appeal in the long term, analysts said.

"We revised this prediction up from 1,500 earlier," said Mr. Tadashi Sato of Daiwa Securities. "It is important for the future of stock futures trading in Japan that it goes well."

The Osaka exchange, the third richest in the world after Tokyo and New York, said 24 companies had become members of the exchange this year expressly to trade the Futures 50. Among them were Salomon Brothers Ltd. and Morgan Stanley and Co.

Fund managers would welcome a futures contract tied to movements in the Nikkei average, but this is currently prohibited because Japan bans trading in anything that cannot be physically delivered.

It also enables investors to switch between buying the futures contract and the actual 50 stocks it represents. When stocks look more attractive relative to

the futures contract, investors buy stocks.

But the Osaka Futures 50 is likely to run into trouble because of several inherent shortcomings, analysts said.

"There are many problems with the contract. I think it is just temporary, just a start," one broker at Yamaichi Securities

said. "It is important for the future of stock futures trading in Japan that it goes well."

Brokers complain the 50 famous names picked to compose the contract do not sufficiently reflect the fluctuations of Japan's main stock barometer, the Nikkei average of 225 shares traded on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Most fund managers judge their performance against the Nikkei average.

Fund managers would welcome a futures contract tied to movements in the Nikkei average, but this is currently prohibited because Japan bans trading in anything that cannot be physically delivered.

The Osaka exchange gets around this restriction by saying that all the Osaka 50 shares would be delivered to the investor if they did not sell before their contracts expired.

African Development Bank plans ambitious programme

ABIDJAN (R) — The African Development Bank (ADB), Africa's foremost development financing institution, is set to embark on an ambitious course of promoting economic growth in a continent beset by floundering loan agreements.

Undaunted by the sorry experiences of other major Third World lenders with debt repayment, the bank holds its 23rd annual meeting in Cairo from next Tuesday to Thursday with prospects bright for future lending plans.

ADB governors are voting by postal ballot on a capital increase of 200 per cent which will finance a rise in lending between 1987 and 1991.

An ADB spokeswoman said the United States had already approved the increase, which would mean a rise in capital to around \$19.6 billion from \$6.55 billion.

There will be no debate on the capital increase at the Cairo meeting, but without its approval some of the bank's lending plans under discussion could be in jeopardy.

ADB Secretary General Koffi Dei-Anang said: "The capital increase is in effect a passport to the capital market."

Mr. Dei-Anang told reporters at the bank's Abidjan headquarters that the increased capital will enable the ADB to borrow something like \$4.5 billion in the next five years.

Most of these new funds will go to agriculture, which received 38 per cent of ADB lending in 1986.

The Reagan administration has been enthusiastic in its support for the ADB and the bank has enjoyed improved access to U.S. Japanese and European capital markets since non-African countries were allowed to become members in 1982.

ADB President Babacar

n'Diaye of Senegal has also won the respect of the international financial community with his shrewd management, earning the ADB a coveted triple A credit rating.

The Cairo meeting is expected to approve the ADB annual report and accounts and discuss cooperative agreements with such organisations as the Inter African Coffee Organisation (IACO).

IACO Secretary General Aggrey Woruk told Reuters the agreement with the ADB was ready to be signed and included the exchange of information and expertise on coffee industry projects which the bank might finance.

Another major event will be a symposium preceding the formal ADB meeting to discuss Africa's environmental crisis. Mr. Dei-Anang said. Delegates will discuss the role of the ADB in alleviating environmental deterioration, which many experts have blamed for food shortages and famine.

Airbus launches two new projects

PARIS (R) — The four-nation Airbus consortium formally launched a programme last week to build a new generation of airliners which it hopes will break the U.S. manufacturers' hold on the long-haul market.

Toulouse-based Airbus Industrie said in a statement that the long-range A340 would be ready to fly commercially in May 1992 and the medium-range A330 would be in the air the next year.

Consortium members West Germany, France and Britain, have made funding commitments for the new planes. The fourth member, Spain, has a smaller stake and has yet to make a financial pledge.

Airbus President Jean Pierson said: "Having launched the A340 and A330, we are able to offer a full range of airliners to match airline needs." The consortium says it has 130 orders for the planes.

The new programme is intended to secure the future of Airbus in the world market by extending its range to include long-haul, low-fuel consumption planes to compete with new models being produced by U.S. companies McDonnell Douglas

and Boeing.

U.S. officials and manufacturers have expressed anger at the government subsidies for the Airbus projects, arguing that they were unfair.

The achievement of a full product-line has been a long-held goal and is expected to significantly enhance our performance in the market place and our commitment to stay and expand a major airline supplier," Mr. Pierson added.

The A340, a four-engined jet designed to carry about 260 passengers up to 14,250 kilometres, takes the European consortium into the long-haul market for the first time.

It is designed to compete with the Boeing 747 Jumbo jet and the McDonnell Douglas MD11, an updated model of the DC-10.

The second new aircraft, the A330, will use the same wings, flight deck and other components and will have a range of 9,250 kilometres, putting it in competition with medium to long-range planes such as the Boeing 767.

The statement said 10 airlines had expressed interest in or had placed firm orders for 130 planes, of which 89 were for the A340.

The programme was originally due to be launched in March but was delayed by arguments over government funding.

The main obstacle was removed on Tuesday when West Germany fell into line with France and Britain and agreed to a funding package of more than \$2.5 billion.

The sum was less than the \$3.8 billion sought by the West German firm in the consortium, Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blom (MBB), but cleared the way for the announcement which precedes the opening this week of the Paris air show.

Britain, the first to making a funding commitment, said last month it would provide \$750 million to help British aerospace participate in the project.

France followed by promising to finance 60 per cent of \$1.7 billion needed by the state aerospace firm Aerospatiale and engine builder SNECMA to take part.

Aerospatiale and MBB each have a 38 per cent share in Airbus Industrie, British Aerospace has 20 per cent and Casa of Spain has four per cent.

Economy contracts in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN (R) — Ivory Coast, one of Africa's most prosperous nations, is now losing money on all its main exports and its economy is shrinking. Agriculture Minister Denis Bra Kanon says.

In a speech to university graduates, Mr. Bra Kanon said a slump in the prices of coffee and cocoa, Ivory Coast's two main exports, caused a large financing gap this year.

"Since the resources of the Caisse are limited, they will soon run out if this has not already happened," he added.

Because Ivory Coast, like many African countries, pays farmers a guaranteed price and meets other fixed costs, it loses money when commodity prices

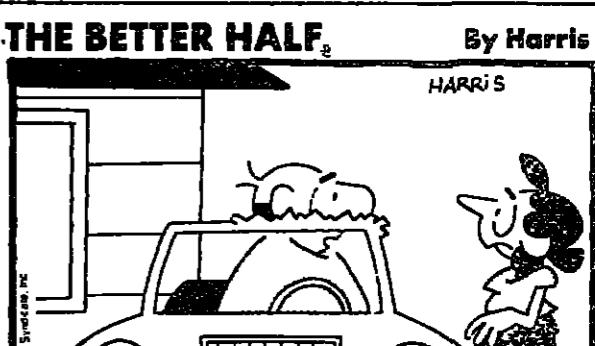
fall too far.

Mr. Bra Kanon, criticising speculators and what he called the failure of international commodity agreements, said the Caisse could have a deficit of up to 150 billion cfa francs (\$495 million) this year.

He said speculators made world commodity prices volatile and budgetary planning in the Third World impossible.

He also accused Western countries of hypocrisy in defending free market trading while granting their farmers massive subsidies.

THE BETTER HALF



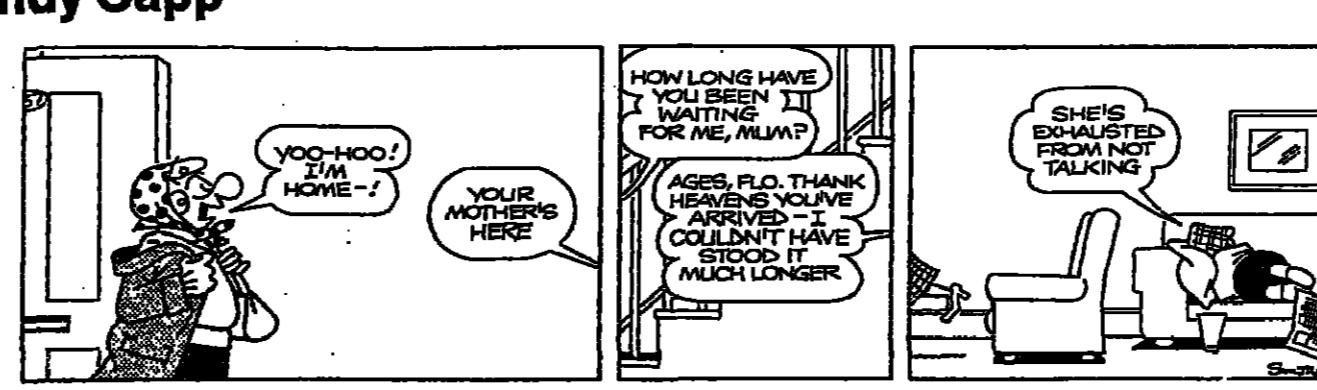
Peanuts



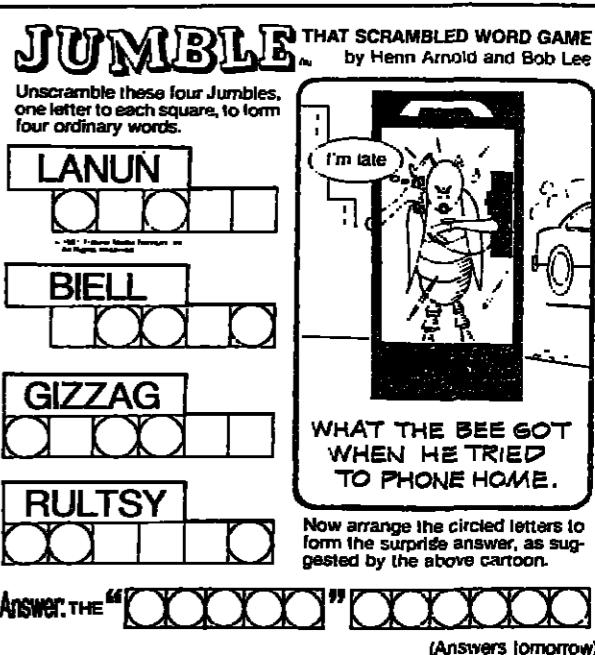
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE



Yesterday's Jumble: ARRAY GAWKY COBALT INWARD
Answer: What an absconder steals after he steals money—AWAY

Philippine police 'Eagles' return to fight Communist 'Sparrows'

MANILA (Agencies) — Elite police squads, acting under orders from President Corazon Aquino, were sent out Sunday to hunt down left-wing assassins who have killed at least six policemen and one soldier in a week.

Two more policemen were gunned down by unidentified attackers in the past two days.

Investigators said Sergeant Dionisio Angeles, police chief of Santa Ana town just north of Manila, was killed by gunmen as he was returning home on Friday. Sergeant Sabino Millare was also shot on his way home Saturday night in Taguig in suburban Manila, they said.

Mrs. Aquino, battling Asia's largest Communist insurgency, Saturday ordered intensified military and police operations against the rebel hit-men, dubbed "Sparrows."

Six policemen have been killed in the past week in the Manila area by the "Sparrows," named for the speed with which they strike.

The Sparrows are small, well-trained and well-armed units of the Communist New People's Army (NPA). Their targets are usually policemen.

The police squads charged with tracking the Sparrows down, and if necessary killing them, are called "Eagles."

This is the second time in two months that the Eagles, veteran

policemen formed into five-member squads, have been ordered into action.

The army officers told Mrs. Aquino the rebels' tactic of shifting the guerrilla war to the cities could be aimed at easing military pressure on guerrilla forces in rural areas.

The spokesman said the military was concerned about the impact of the killings on the shaky Philippine economy.

He quoted one commander as telling Mrs. Aquino: "If the Sparrows can kill police officers, they can hit businessmen."

Four alleged rebels were killed during the weekend in clashes with troops outside the capital, the Philippine News Agency reported Sunday.

It said an alleged NPA commander was killed and four aides were wounded when rebels raided a police headquarters in Quezon province Saturday.

Thirteen soldiers were wounded, including nine in an army vehicle that struck a landmine.

The news agency said three rebels were killed on Friday in an army raid on an NPA hideout in Pangasinan province.

Mrs. Aquino ordered the

Eagles into action after an emergency meeting at the presidential palace Saturday with army commanders led by Armed Forces Chief Gen. Fidel Ramos.

A police spokesman said Mrs. Aquino was "very concerned" at the resurgence of Sparrow killings.

The army officers told Mrs. Aquino the rebels' tactic of shifting the guerrilla war to the cities could be aimed at easing military pressure on guerrilla forces in rural areas.

The spokesman said the military was concerned about the impact of the killings on the shaky Philippine economy.

He quoted one commander as telling Mrs. Aquino: "If the Sparrows can kill police officers, they can hit businessmen."

Besides reactivating the Eagles, the military also decided to resume random checks of vehicles in the capital and ask residents to report the possible presence of rebels, the spokesman said.

Commissioner Haydee Yorac said the order was issued on May 29 after Cagayan province Governor Teresa Dupaya and other local officials asked the elections body to dismiss Lt.-Col. Reynaldo Aguinaldo as provincial commander.

Mrs. Aquino Saturday repealed two decrees issued by former President Ferdinand Marcos, including one which increased the penalty for subversion from life imprisonment to death.

The other decree prescribed the death penalty for anyone who tried to kill the president, his family, members of his cabinet

and generals of the armed forces.

Mrs. Aquino said the second decree smacked of "the law of the kings" and had "no place in a democratic society."

The Commission on Election Saturday overrode opposition protests and officially proclaimed 20 winners in the May 11 election for 24 Senate seats.

They included 19 ruling party candidates and movie actor Joseph Estrada, an oppositionist.

The commission, which has counted 90 per cent of the votes, plans to proclaim the four other winners this week.

Opposition charges of fraud had delayed the proclamation.

The commission has ordered a provincial military commander relieved of duty for allegedly using his men to work for opposition candidates in the May 11 congressional balloting, an official said Sunday.

Commissioner Haydee Yorac said the order was issued on May 29 after Cagayan province Governor Teresa Dupaya and other local officials asked the elections body to dismiss Lt.-Col. Reynaldo Aguinaldo as provincial commander.

Col. Aguinaldo is a supporter of Juan Ponce Enrile, who was defence minister under ousted President Ferdinand Marcos.

Polls show Thatcher on course to victory

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher looked set to win an unprecedented third consecutive term in the June 11 general election as opinion polls Sunday put her firmly in the lead with only four days to go.

One poll, conducted by Harris for the Observer newspaper, gave the ruling Conservatives 44 per cent of the votes, the Labour Party 33 per cent and the centrist Alliance 21.

A Mori poll for the Sunday Times also gave the Tories an 11-point lead with 43 per cent of the votes. Labour received 32 per cent and the Liberal-Social Democrat Alliance 24 per cent.

A Gallup survey for the Sunday Telegraph, gave the conservatives 41.5 per cent, Labour 34.5 and the Alliance 22.5.

Under Britain's winner-takes-all voting system, the first two polls would give the Conservatives an overall majority of more than 84 seats in the 650-member House of Commons. The third would give them around 37 seats, compared to 144 at the moment.

The surveys of between 1,087 and 1,275 people between June 3 and 5 showed Mrs. Thatcher had firmly regained the lead in the campaign after Labour last week appeared to catch up and made shares tumble on the London Stock Exchange.

The Tories are promising

prosperity and wealth with more free enterprise Thatcherism, which they say has tripled the number of share owners since

1979, boosted the average worker's take-home pay by 21 per cent and kept inflation in check.

Mrs. Thatcher, 61, would be the first British prime minister to win a consecutive third term in office since Britain's modern parliamentary system was established in the Reform Act of 1832.

Neil Kinnock's Labour Party is pledged to a non-nuclear Britain — scrapping the country's independent nuclear deterrent and ordering out U.S. nuclear arms — and a caring government which will take the unemployed, sick and elderly under its wing.

The party, which now stands at an average nine percentage points behind the Tories, has taken a battering over its defence policy and suffered another blow Sunday with a military chief warning Britain's defence could not be guaranteed under Labour.

"The Labour Party would, in a matter of weeks, effectively destroy NATO alliance and cause the breakdown of the West's collective defence," Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin was quoted as saying in the Sunday Telegraph Sunday.

Lord Lewin, who was head of the armed forces during the 1982 Falklands war against Argentina, added: "Had this happened to me when I was chief of the defence staff, I would have told Mr. Kinnock that his policy would destroy the country's defences and that I could not support it."

"If he insisted on its implementation, I would have had to resign," Lord Lewin said.

COLUMNS 7&8

Moroccan children play AIDS game

RABAT (R) — Moroccan schoolchildren have devised an AIDS game in their playgrounds, the daily Al Bayane has reported. One child is deemed to carry the disease and has to run after the others. Anybody caught is "infected." The game ends when AIDS has been passed to all the "healthy" players. The last official report on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in Morocco, carried by the Moroccan News Agency MAP in February, said that two cases were diagnosed in Casablanca and both victims appeared to have contracted the disease abroad.

Curry murder suspects released

SINGAPORE (R) — A Singapore judge has released six members of a family charged with murdering or helping in the murder of a man whose body was later cut up and cooked in a curry. In a ruling the judge granted the six a discharge after the prosecution said it had insufficient evidence. Three brothers and their sister, Nagaratha Vally Ramiah, 33, were arrested last March and accused of murdering her husband in December, 1984. Their mother and the wife of one of the brothers were accused of abetting them in the murder of Ayakanno Marimuthu, 37, a caretaker. The four were alleged to have bludgeoned the victim to death with an iron rod in a church compound. The man's cooked remains, including pieces of skull and bones, were packed into plastic bags and thrown into several roadside dustbins.

Convicted murderer executed in U.S.

ANGOLA, Louisiana (AP) — A man condemned for the murder of a guard during a bank robbery was executed early Sunday in the electric chair. Benjamin Berry was put to death shortly after midnight, said an official from the State Department of Corrections. He was the 76th prisoner executed in the United States since the U.S. supreme court allowed states to restore the death penalty in 1976. Berry's appeals ran out late Friday when the supreme court refused to stop the execution and Louisiana State Governor Edwin Edwards said he would not step in.

Dog gets gold heroism award

BOSTON (AP) — A 10-year-old German shepherd that was shot four times, saving his 78-year-old owner's life, has been honoured for heroism. King, 45 kilogramme shepherd, received a gold medal Thursday from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for protecting his owner during a housebreak by an armed intruder. "I've got no friend but him," said King's owner, Thomas Perkins, 78, of the city's Dorchester section. "He saved my life two or three times. He's ready now if he had to be." King was shot four times on Jan. 5, 1986, when he hunged at a gunman who broke into Perkins' second-floor apartment and yelled, "give it up, old man." The dog set upon the gunman while Perkins hid in a closet. The assailant fled out a window without Perkins' money. A 23-year-old man arrested five days later was awaiting trial on an armed robbery charge issued in the break-in, authorities said. A veterinarian amputated a toe on the dog's right paw and removed a bullet from his thigh. But two bullets imbedded in the muscle in King's neck and shoulder were left there because they were not near any vital organs.

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Americans favour AIDS testing

WASHINGTON (R) — Americans rank AIDS above cancer or heart disease as the number-one health threat to the nation and overwhelmingly favour testing, according to a poll. The poll, taken by the ABC Television Network in connection with a four-hour broadcast symposium on acquired immune deficiency disease (AIDS), showed 70 per cent of those surveyed considered AIDS the major health problem, compared with 12 per cent naming cancer and three per cent heart disease. The June 2 telephone poll of 509 adults showed 98 per cent wanted AIDS tests made easily available. Although President Reagan and Vice

President George Bush were boozed in the past week for calling for some mandatory tests, 85-to-86 per cent of those questioned in the poll called for testing of prison inmates, military personnel, immigrants, and those getting married. Almost as many favoured AIDS testing as part of routine medical checkups, and 58 per cent were willing to allow employers to test their workers. More than six in 10 of those surveyed agreed with the statement, "mandatory AIDS testing would lead to discrimination against those found to have the disease." But 80 per cent nevertheless said stopping the spread of the disease should take precedence over individual privacy.

Austrians break up drug ring

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Austrian security police have broken up an international drug ring that was organized and financed by hockey star Jiri Bubla, according to a statement by the interior Ministry. Others arrested included Austrian, Polish, Canadian, Israeli and Czech citizens, the statement said. Bubla, a Czech ice hockey player who has lived in Canada for several years, allegedly organized and financed the operation together with Czech-born Canadian Joseph Janda, the statement said. Anna Pola, an Austrian, born in Czechoslovakia, made several trips to Pakistan, Thailand and Canada as part of the operation, the statement said. Pola, Janda, Bubla and several others whose names the ministry withheld, allegedly smuggled a total of 33.5 kilograms of high-quality heroin into Austria, the statement said, then smuggled the drug to Canada.

Jazz great celebrates 70th birthday

NEW YORK (AP) — Jazz great Dizzy Gillespie, who turned 70 on Friday, kicked off a weekend of celebration with a high-spirited, musical party at a midtown hotel. About 100 fellow musicians, including Carmen McRae, Mongo Santamaria and Lalo Schifrin, attended the gathering at the New York Penta Hotel. They sang an impressive rendition of "happy birthday" and helped Gillespie make a start on a five-tiered cake. After the party, the trumpet player led a musical parade across Seventh Avenue and into Penn Station, where they all boarded a special train to the Wolf Trap Performing Arts Centre in Virginia, outside Washington.

2 men beaten unconscious in theatre

COLUMBIA, Maryland (AP) — A man who asked a noisy movie theatre patron to lower his voice was beaten unconscious along with his brother by 10 men while the audience kept watching a gangster film. The brothers were carried down the aisle from their seats in the rear of the theatre, thrown on the floor in front of the screen and kicked and beaten while pleas for help from one of their wives went unanswered, said Sgt. Angus Park of Howard County Police. Only two people said they yelled for help, according to police. No one else recalled seeing or hearing anything. The incident began Wednesday when William A. Murphy, 24, his wife, Tina, 25, and his brother, Robert W. Murphy, 27, were sitting towards the rear of the theatre watching the *Untouchables*, a new crime film, police said. William Murphy asked a man sitting in the same row to lower his voice. After the third request, the man started hitting Murphy, police said. When Murphy tried to push the man aside, nine other men sprung behind them joined in the fracas, Park said. The 10 men then picked up the brothers and carried them down the aisle kicking and screaming while Mrs. Murphy yelled for help and for someone to turn the house on, according to Park. The 10 assailants fled and the two men were regaining consciousness by the time police arrived, he said. The Murphy brothers were taken to a hospital where they were treated for head injuries, lacerations and scrapes and released.

Reuter foundation announces awards

LONDON (R) — Seven journalists, including one Jordanian, in mid-career in the developing world have been awarded fellowships by the Reuter Foundation to study at universities.

Four will study at Oxford University, England, two at Stanford University, U.S.A. and one at Bordeaux University, France, during the 1987-88 academic year.

This is one more than in previous years. The extra fellowship at Oxford has been awarded to Munzir Elahi of the Pakistan ver-

acular newspaper Jang in Lahore because the foundation's trustees felt that his involvement in journalism for children should be supported.

The Jordanian journalist Norma Marcos, aged 35, will study at Stanford University.

The Reuter Foundation was established in 1982. Its aim is to help narrow the gap between developed and developing countries in the use of information technology and to provide research opportunities for talented journalists and photo-journalists from developing countries.

Honecker plans to visit W. Germany

BERLIN (AP) — East German leader Erich Honecker has agreed to make an unprecedented visit to West Germany but has not set a date, the state-run East German News Agency (ADN) quoted him as saying.

It would be the first visit by any East German Communist Party chief to West Germany.

"Regarding my visit in the FRG (West Germany), there is basic agreement to carry it out. We only need to agree to a date appropriate for both sides,"

ADN quoted Mr. Honecker as saying.

ADN said he spoke in an interview with a Japanese journalist and the news agency carried the text of the interview.

Mr. Honecker, who came to power in East Germany in 1971, had a standing invitation to visit West Germany since Helmut Schmidt became chancellor in 1974.

When Chancellor Helmut Kohl was elected in October 1982, he

17 die in Tokyo fire

TOKYO (Agencies) — Seventeen people were killed and 27 injured in late-night fire at an old people's home in an eastern suburb of Tokyo, fire brigade officials said Sunday.

Those killed were aged between 71 and 93. Five died in hospital.

Twenty-five people were in the home, including two women employees, when the fire broke out shortly before midnight at Shojien in Higashi Murayama city, a spokesman said.

More than 30 of the residents were bed-ridden and some were carried on the backs of firemen to safety.

Firemen brought the blaze in the three-storey building under control after two and a half hours, the spokesman said.

The injured, none of whom were hurt seriously, were taken to local hospitals after their rescue, said Katsuyoshi Yamanaka, a police officer.

Fire crews were investigating the cause of the fire.

Police and fire department officials were investigating the cause of the fire, the police said.

White most headed for

Sihanouk denies planning talks with Hanoi

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk has denied that his decision to resign as leader of the Kampuchean resistance coalition was made in order to negotiate with Vietnam or the Kampuchean government.

But Prince Sihanouk left the door open to such contacts.

"I have not had and I do not have any contact with the people from Hanoi or Phnom Penh or Moscow and I do not have any plan to establish any contact whatsoever," Sihanouk said in a May 29 telegram to his son and representative in Bangkok, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Sihanouk has condemned the Communist Khmer Rouge's massacres in Kampuchea in 1975-76, but has allied himself with it since 1982 because it is the strongest of the three guerrilla groups fighting Vietnamese forces that occupied

whole world know."

A copy of the telegram was received Sunday from Sihanouk's Bangkok office.

Sihanouk recently announced he was stepping down as President of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea until May 7, 1988. He said this was because the Khmer Rouge, one of his coalition partners, was attacking his forces instead of cooperating on the battlefield and was abusing refugees in Khmer Rouge-controlled camps.

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